

The Ordnance Bomb

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Comments From Chairman LtCol. (Ret) Jim R. Towney

As we move into cooler temperatures, I hope this addition of the newsletter finds everyone and the families safe and healthy. I would also like to send my thoughts and prayers out to the families and loved ones of the thirteen Service Members we recently lost in Afghanistan. Thank you for your service and sacrifice. Til Valhalla!!

I want to congratulate the three winners of our first ever GOMA Scholarship awards. We were planning on awarding five \$500 scholarship this year, but only received three applicants. If you have eligible family members, have them submit their scholarship application next year. We are still looking for a volunteer to take on the duties of Scholarship Chairman. If anyone is interested, please reach out to one of the GOMA Board Members. We also have an opening for the Secretary position, due to Jerry Copley having to stand down because of work commitments. I want to thank Jerry for all the hard work he did while he was our secretary and would ask if there is anyone interested in filling this position, please let me know.

Like I mentioned in our last newsletter the GOMA cannot function without our members volunteering and getting involved. We are still conducting monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. The start time is 1730 PST, and the call-in information is 848-220-3300 Conf. Code 306434.

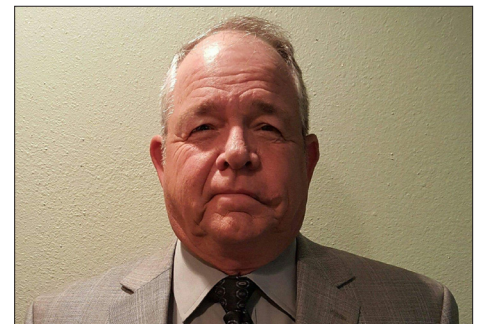
We only had board member



Chairman
Jim R. Towney, LtCol (Ret)
Chairman@usmcgoma.org

participation the past few months. These meetings usually only take 30-45 minutes, so please if the meetings fit into your schedule dial in for next month's meeting. As always, if anyone has any suggestion, thoughts, comments or concerns or has ideas on ways we can improve, please reach out to any the board membership, and let us know.

As we get closer to the Marine Corps Birthday, I would ask all members whether you're at a Birthday Ball or celebrating in your backyard, take a few pictures and provide them to us so we can include them in our next newsletter. Stay safe, stay motivated and look forward to talking with everyone in the future.



Vice-Chairman
Michael S. Lewis, MGySgt (Ret)
ViceChairman@usmcgoma.org



Treasurer
Charles W. Bushnell, MGySgt (Ret)
Treasurer@usmcgoma.org

Custodis Pro Ferrum

MEMBER LtCol. Keith D. Burgess

SPOTLIGHT ALWAYS A MARINE, NOW A CULINARY CHEF



Lieutenant Colonel Keith D. Burgess enlisted in the Marine Corps in March of 1991 and completed recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina. Following recruit training; Private First Class Burgess attended the Marine Combat Training at Camp Lejeune, NC. Upon completion, he was assigned the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 2141, Amphibious Vehicle Repairman.

PFC Burgess then attended the Assault Amphibian school in Del Mar, CA where he was promoted to LCpl. Upon completion, he was assigned to Alpha Company, 2d Amphibian Assault Battalion, CLNC. On September 2, 1992 he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal. In 1993, he deployed with 2d Platoon on the 24th Marine Expeditionary

Unit deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as well as to Somalia in support of Operation Continue Hope. Upon return to CONUS the 24th MEU was recalled and sent to Haiti for Operation Support Democracy.

In 1994, Cpl Burgess was promoted to Sergeant and deployed with the 26th MEU to the Mediterranean and conducted the evacuation of the American embassy in Albania and was part of Operation Deny Flight. In July 1997, SSgt Burgess reported to Drill Instructor School, Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon graduating he was assigned to Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion as a Drill Instructor.

In 2000, SSgt Burgess was selected for Warrant Officer and reported to The Basic School. Upon graduating from TBS, WO Burgess

reported to the Ordnance Officers Course Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. Upon graduating he was assigned to 2d Tank Battalion, 2d Marine Division, CLNC. During this assignment as the Tank Maintenance Officer, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF-1.) Upon return CWO2 Burgess was assigned as the Battalion Maintenance Officer.

In 2004, CWO2 Burgess received orders to Camp Fuji, Japan where he served as the Camp Ordnance Officer. There he was promoted to CWO3 and (6) months later promoted to Captain (Limited Duty Officer.)

In 2005, Capt Burgess was assigned to Marine Corps Systems Command as the PG-13, Infantry

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Warfighter Focus

ORDNANCE MARINES HELP WRITE A NEW CHAPTER IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

Submitted by the Marines of Maintenance Platoon Amphibious Combat Vehicle Company D

For the past ten months, Marines with Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion (AABN) have been supporting the initial fielding of the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV), while simultaneously wrapping up operations for the Company. In October of 2020 Delta Company accepted the first 18 ACVs fielded to the Fleet Marine Force. The fielding of the ACVs was bittersweet as the company was notified the month prior, under Force Design 2030 initiatives they would be deactivating in July 2021.

Over the next nine years, the Marine Corps is scheduled to fully transition to the ACV from the legacy Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV). Delta Company and their AAVs have been a fixture aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms supporting mechanized training for over 40 years. The company was initially formed in 1979 as part of an independent platoon under 3d Tank Battalion. The platoon grew in size in 1980 with two platoons arriving from Hawaii, reinforcing the platoon into a company while still remaining a part of 3d Tanks. The company was re-designated as Delta Company, 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion, in 1981. Since that time, many generations of Delta Company ordnance Marines have built a proud legacy maintaining their equipment



ACVs ready to begin operations during ITX 3-21

and helping train countless Marines for Desert Combat Operations in Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

While many veterans will be sad to see the venerable AAV retire, the latest generation of ordnance Marines are excited to make history. The ACV marks the first new ordnance vehicle the Marine Corps has acquired in over 30 years. The vehicles design is based off an Italian vehicle named the Super Amphibious Vehi-

cle from Iveco. The ACV is quite a departure from the AAV, the most obvious difference is trading in tracks for wheels. The vehicle is also larger in stature and weight, tipping the scales in excess of 70,500 lbs. While the ACV may be heavier, this bulk aids in its survivability against Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs). IEDs took a heavy toll on AAVs in land combat operations in Iraq and the upgraded protection is well re-

ceived by both crewman and mechanics alike. Corporal Delgado, a mechanic amongst the company stated “The external armor and underbelly protection of the v-shaped hull will save Marines lives in combat.”

Despite its weight the ACV is quite nimble, drawing off of a 690 horsepower Cursor in-line six-cylinder supercharged engine. The engine compartment is separated from the crew compartment greatly reducing engine noise and exhaust fumes.

The ACV is able to achieve speeds in excess of 65 mph on roadways and 56 mph off-road. The overall ride of the vehicle is much smoother than the AAV, using eight independent nitrogen charged strut assemblies. The engine is combined with a seven speed Allison transmission. Power is provided to the wheels through an H-drive system beginning at the engine and transmission moving to the transfer case where power is redirected to each side via eight gearboxes. The vehicle normally is operated in six-wheel drive mode, with the option of eight wheel drive and eight wheel differential lock depending on terrain. The wheel assemblies can be inflated or deflated via a central tire inflation system, similar to those installed on the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) and Logistics Vehicle System Replacement (LVSr). A key benefit of



ACVs conducting ship to shore movement

wheeled mobility over of tracks is the ability to lose multiple wheels and the vehicle is still able to maneuver out of a kill zone. All of these benefits combine for a powerful vehicle capable of tackling a wide variety of terrain while increasing crew comfort. According to the ACV platoon's maintenance chief, Sergeant Capstran, the ACV, “Is the Cadillac of Amphibious Vehicles.” Gone are the days of breathing in exhaust and diesel fumes while yelling to the Marines next to you in order to communicate simple commands. Embarked infantry and crewman can now easily hold a conversation while the vehicle is moving at a high rate of speed.

One of the most dramatic changes the ACV provides is the increase in the lethality of the vehicles weapons system. The Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS) or Remote Weapon System

(RWS) is the same utilized on a variety of Marine and Army platforms during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Corporal Burger, one of D Co's mechanics stated, “The RWS is a massive upgrade from the previous generation up gun weapon station, making the ACV a more lethal vehicle than its predecessor.” Replacing the AAVP7 Up Gun Weapon Station (UGWS), the gunner now sits behind the vehicle commander and is protected inside of the hull of the ACV. The gunner operates the system via a joystick and display screen, equipped with both thermal and visual optics. The CROWS is gyroscopically stabilized and has ability to shoot on the move, a capability the UGWS does not possess. The CROWS is also equipped with a laser range finder which provides a ballistic firing solution for a wide range of weapons systems. These factors allow first round

hits during engagements out to the weapon systems max effective range. Gunners were routinely able to effectively engage targets with the M2 .50 cal. out to 1,830 meters and the MK-19 out to 1,500 meters. Even the best legacy AAV UGWS gunners would be hard pressed to put rounds on target faster than a relatively new and inexperienced ACV gunner using a CROWS.

This increase in technology comes at a cost, the ACV is equipped with many sophisticated systems which are vastly more complex than the AAV. The next generation of AAV and ACV mechanics will need to develop an entirely new mindset in order to troubleshoot and maintain the vehicles. While some time tested techniques like understanding the path of flow for a given system will greatly aid in diagnostics.

Continued Next Page

The Ordnance Bomb

A more modern approach leveraging advances in troubleshooting equipment and on-board diagnostic systems is needed when conducting maintenance. The ACV is being fielded with several new pieces of equipment aiding in troubleshooting. One of these is the Driver Display Panel (DDP). The DDP is a fully digital display showing information concerning temperatures, pressures, and data for various vehicle systems. The DDP is similar to the cockpit display on a modern helicopter, where all of the gauges have been replaced with screens. All of the legacy gauges found on the AAV for speed, temperature, voltage, and fuel levels are now incorporated as part of the DDP. It also serves as a fault indicator allowing crewman to use the DDP to proceed through first echelon troubleshooting procedures. Once the first echelon troubleshooting steps have been performed, the DDP then directs the operator to locate a mechanic to continue higher echelon troubleshooting. More in-depth diagnostics can be performed via a J1939 data port. The engine, transmission, central tire inflation system, and arctic heater can all be analyzed using the J1939 data port and a Toughbook containing manufacturer specific diagnostic software. This transition to smarter self-diagnostic systems is comparable



The CROWS bring a dramatic increase in lethality



Air Bags utilized to lift an ACV tire

with many modern vehicles and large aquaculture equipment. According to LCpl Hernandez a Delta company mechanic, "The self-diagnostic systems on the ACV save hours of maintenance." Being able to rapidly determine faults saves valuable time without having to isolate and determine malfunctions through miles of electrical, and fluid lines. The ACV brings some physical challenges as the spaces to ac-

cess equipment are smaller. When working on the AAV, most of the power pack and vehicle systems were accessible without having to remove equipment. In order to conduct many repairs to the ACV, one of the first steps is to remove the power pack. "When in doubt, pull the pack" stated Cpl Burger, a D Co. maintainer. Due to the small spaces, often times, when troubleshooting problems inside the en-

gine compartment, it was necessary to pull the entire power pack. Time will tell if innovative Marines will be able to find solutions for troubleshooting components without needing to remove the vehicle's power pack. While undoubtedly a departure from the AAV, every Marine who had the opportunity to work on or operate the ACV unanimously prefers it over the AAV.

Prior to receiving their ACVs in October of 2020, the Marines of the company assisted in the testing and evaluation of the vehicle. The first stage of testing included New Equipment Training (NET) for the Company's crewman and mechanics. All operator and field maintenance new equipment training for the ACV is currently conducted by the New Equipment Training Team (NETT) and is augmented by civilian instructors from MLT systems. The crewman began their NET course in December of 2019 and finished the final amphibious portion of their training in April of 2020. The mechanics began their training in March of 2020 and complete the six-week course in May 2020. After completing NET, Marines from Delta Company then went on to support the testing of the ACV during the Initial Orientation Testing and Evaluation (IOT&E). Testing began on May 23, 2020 and included a multi-day and



Graduates of the first ACV Maintenance Course

night section level gunnery range. Following gunnery 12 full mission profile desert missions were conducted with embarked infantry, after the desert portion of testing was completed in July. The next phase, amphibious operations aboard Camp Pendleton commenced in August. Another 12 full amphibious mission profiles were completed with embarked infantry. The final mission involving a ship to shore movement followed by seizing an inland objective and finally retrograding back to ship. In order to simulate combat conditions only 18 hours were afforded to conduct maintenance and preparation between missions. Despite the high operational tempo

and short time available for conducting maintenance, ACV readiness was maintained above 85 percent. The positive results of testing led to full rate production being declared for the ACV starting in November of 2020. This was a testament to the ACV and especially the Marines whose hard work and dedication allowed the vehicle to excel during testing.

Since receiving their ACVs, Delta Company conducted several gunnery ranges and field training exercises. These field exercises provided numerous opportunities to gather data and refine tactics, techniques, and procedures. This data led to the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

for not only operating, but also maintaining the vehicles. Some beneficial maintenance lessons learned included identifying key repair parts required to perform expedient repairs and vehicle recovery procedures. One of the specific maintenance SOPs developed deals with the issue of ACVs not being equipped with a vehicle jack capable of changing a tire in a field environment. Another SOP developed addresses the issue of an ACV is not furnished with a winch or a fielded dedicated recovery variant. The ACVR is not scheduled to be fielded until the mid-2020s.

To address both of these shortcomings, it was a SOP to attach an AAVR7 and AAVP7, as a maintenance

The Ordnance Bomb section to the platoon. The AAV maintenance section provided organic maintenance, recovery, and overhead lift support during field operations. Due to the sheer weight of many of the ACV components, overhead lift support is necessary. The AAVR7 would be equipped with an air bag lift system combined with four by four inch blocking, enabling its crew to quickly and safely perform tire changes to ACVs. The AAVP7 was employed to store a field Demand Supported Item (DSI) block of parts, which had been identified as having high failure rates. The AAVP7 was also employed as storage for ACV tires, as ACVs do not have the ability to carry spare tires. The ACV was utilized during an Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) for the first time supporting ITX 2-21 and 3-21. These ITXs provided the initial integration to the Fleet Marine Force concerning the capabilities and limitations of the ACV. Following the end of ITX 3-21 on May 21st 2021 Delta Company held an official deactivation ceremony ending its 40 years of ordnance excellence in the desert. While years of refinement lay ahead and three more variants of the ACV are scheduled to be fielded. The Marines of Delta Company can look back with pride, writing a new chapter in Marine Corps history as being the first to field and maintain the ACV.

Warfighter Focus

ASSUALT AMPHIBIAN COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS SAFETY WITH INNOVATION

Submitted by WO2 Matt Pickelsimer

As many are already aware, the Assault Amphibian Community has been undergoing many changes and transformations since the incident on the west coast last summer. The incident although tragic, has undoubtedly fostered an environment of innovation not only within the Assault Amphibian Community, but Ground Ordnance as well. Specifically within 2d Assault Amphibian Battalion (2d AABn), this has led to several innovations that currently benefit the unit or are in the process of coming to fruition.

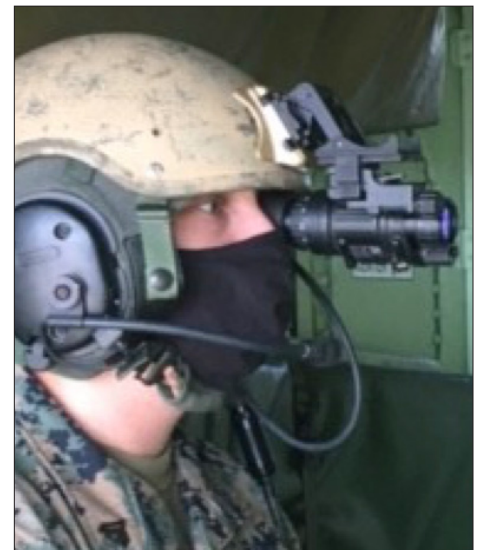
Over the last year 2d AABn has begun transitioning to the 7800i communications platform within our Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAVs). This modernized communication platform provides technological advances to align with an ever changing mission. Integrated within this system is the Advanced Combat Vehicle Crewman Helmet, commonly known as “The Comm Helmet”. Although an outstanding piece of equipment in its own right, it has one distinct draw back. The helmet does not come with an integrated Night Vision Device (NVD) Bracket, nor is it drilled/tapped for said bracket. The easy fix is of course to utilize the old “Mohawk Strap” design which has been used with some success. However, the strap is prone to become loose or catch on gear or equipment within the vehicle. This has led to a unilat-



Advanced Combat Vehicle Crewman Helmet after NVD plate installation

eral effort within the battalion for a better solution. The decision was made to go forward with drilling a hole in order to mount an NVD Bracket, and subsequent approval of a modification from Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault. This will allow our Marines to conduct night operations in the interest of efficiency and above all, safety.

A large component of 2d AABn's way into the future has been the transition from Up-Gunned Weapon Stations (UGWS) to the Common Remote Weapon Stations (CROWS). This new integration has brought 21st century technol-



ogy to the AAV platform. CROWS enables a Marine to fire either the M2A1 or Mk19 Mod3 from inside the vehicle using a computer screen and joystick. Considering that many of our young Marines are “video game centric”, this has brought a whole new level of lethal-

ity to the almost 50 year old vehicle. However, as with any new technology comes new challenges. When compared to the UGWS, the CROWS present an obstacle for weapons storage. As where UGWS employ both the MK19 and M2 simultaneously, CROWS employs one weapon at a time. The general consensus is that AAV crews still intend to take both guns on CROWS integrated AAVs. Then where does that leave the second machinegun? The answer, a rugged and waterproof weapon case that can fit either the Mk19 or M2 platform while consid-

ering size constraints for storage within the AAV hull and potential service on future fielded Amphibious Combat Vehicles. This case will enable an AAV crew to conduct a weapons swap in order to flex to mission needs, prevent the weapon from being damaged by jostling around within the hull, prevent rust, save hull space by integrating some SL3 for the CROWS into dead space around the weapon, and prevent personnel injuries from a heavy machinegun coming into contact with a Marine. Industrial Supply Company and U.S. Foam and Etch were contacted

in regards to case selection and design. First article prototype delivery is pending late September.

Every armory across the Corps has always been challenged by issuing weapons/optics to personnel and the associated administrative burden. The automated armory, has been one solution to this age old problem.

While outstanding in many ways, it also presents its own challenges, specifically cost. Never satisfied with the status quo, one of our Electro Optics Technicians, Lance Corporal (LCpl) Killian was able to utilize

The Ordnance Bomb

Microsoft Excel and Visual Basics for Applications (VBA) to develop a localized method of issuing weapons/optics at no cost to the government. This enables the armory custodians to easily input personnel information into the database using step by step instructions located on user forms embedded within VBA. The end result is a system that produces the appropriate Navy and Marine Corps forms for each Marine and has a short learning curve for the inevitably high turnover rate of armory custodians. Other

Continued Page 12

MGYSGT. JOHN PIERCE RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS



Master Gunnery Sergeant John Pierce is retiring 1 October 2021 after 30 years of faithful service to our Corps and the Ordnance Community.

If you have not directly served with Master Gunnery Sergeant Pierce, know without doubt that he has impacted all of us

with his positive and intelligent contributions to both the technical and personal domains. Please join together as the community in wishing him fair weather and following seas in his transition from active service.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Pierce was born in Pomona, California on April 23, 1969 and entered the Marine Corps on October 29, 1991. After graduation from MCRD San Diego, he was assigned the MOS of 2171, Electro-optical Ordnance Repairman, and transferred to MCLB Albany, where he was the honor gradu-

ate for his MOS school. LCpl Pierce received orders to 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 29 Palms, California.

In March of 1993, Lance Corporal Pierce was assigned to AT/TOW Platoon, where he served as a TOW Missile Technician and, after promotion to Sergeant, the Battalion Optics Chief. He participated in two Joint Task Force 6 operations with DEA and Border Patrol along the U.S.-Mexico border, resulting in the seizure of illegal narcotics.

In February of 1996, Sergeant Pierce transferred to Second

Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, where he served as the Battalion Optics and Turret Chief.

In January of 1998, Sergeant Pierce reported to Parris Island, South Carolina for Drill Instructor School. He was subsequently assigned to India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, where he served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Series Gunnery Sergeant.

In June of 2001, Staff Sergeant Pierce reported to 1st Tank Battalion, 29 Palms, where he

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IN MEMORIAM

MGySgt Jack (JD) Wine February 18, 1950 – November 9, 2018



Although MGySgt Jack (JD) Wine passed away a few years ago his memory popped up recently. It seemed only fitting to honor his service in this forum after an email had been sent out to all active GOMA Members and many of the "Old Guard" responded. Dennis Adams remembers his old friend well and said that when he retired, he moved to Virginia so he could go fishing for striped bass. He also wrote that in talking to JD's wife, she stated that he passed from cancer on 9 November 2018 the day before he had planned to try and attend the Marine Corps Birthday Ball no matter how sick he was. Here is another old Ordnance Marine that has gone up to the big maintenance ramp ahead of us. There just is no way we can stay in contact with the many friends we have made over the years and why it is so important to have a life membership in GOMA.

John Cotton remembered when he was a young SSgt and JD a crusty GySgt, and they were on Tech Assist working for Capt. Joliceour and TAD ten months per year. He stated that obviously JD had him doing most of the driving in the govie as the junior SNCO. JD always complained because I only drove the speed limit (which was 55 nationally). One day we were driving through Lancaster, PA and I got pulled over. Jack started berating me for speed-

ing!!! Luckily, I talked my way into just a warning. I'll never forget that one...we laughed later, since we were just looking for a laundry mat.

In the evenings, JD always wanted John to help him stretch for kickboxing practice. John never saw him fight, but apparently, he was pretty good at it. John was playing league volleyball in those days but could never get JD to help with his practice while on the road. They were the odd couple for sure.

In 94 JD called John because he was pissed the 2171s "stole" two MSgt promotion slots from the 2181s. Like it was "John's" fault. John got selected for 1stSgt on that board so the 71s only used one slot (Larry Brown) and the 2181s couldn't get the other back...Jack was FURIOUS. They didn't talk for a while after that one. LOL, good times. Interestingly enough in 1995 the (2171's) merged back with the 81s.

JD was a great Marine and mentor serving 28 years in the Corps and after retirement, he spent many years as a government contractor working as a logistician. In his free time he loved going fishing with his brother and spending time with his children and grandchildren. His final interment with military honors was held at Quantico National Cemetery.

Rest In Peace Brother!
Semper Fidelis!!!



GOMA Annual Awards



Ground Ordnance Maintenance Officer of the Year
CWO3 Joshua M. Riddle 2110



Ground Ordnance Maintenance NCO of the Year
Sgt Daniel G. Laskowski 2112

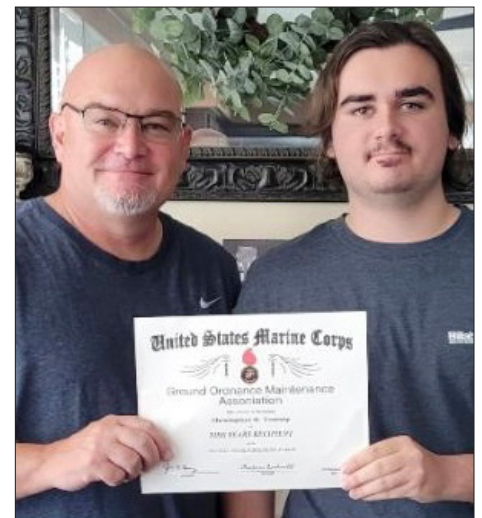
2021 USMC GOMA Scholarship Award Recipients



Alexia and Mike Ryan



Tim and Autumn Cooley



Jim and Christopher Towney

It is with great pleasure that we send congratulations to our recipients for our 2021-2022 Scholarship Awards! All three selected applications outlined the achievements of very impressive young Men and Women whose personal hard work, dedication, and perseverance reflected those key qualities desired in our country's future leaders.

MGySgt. Pierce Continued

served as the TOW Maintenance Chief, and Battalion Ordnance Chief. He deployed to Kuwait in January of 2003, and participated in numerous combat operations with AT/TOW Platoon in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In January of 2005, Staff Sergeant Pierce reported to Ordnance Maintenance Company, 3rd Maintenance Battalion, Okinawa, Japan, where he served as the Fire Control Platoon Commander, Company Gunnery Sergeant, and Maintenance Management Chief.

Gunnery Sergeant Pierce reported to the Okinawa Staff Non-commissioned Officer Academy on December 1st, 2008, and served as a faculty advisor and SNCOIC for the Career Course. He was selected as the Instructor of the Year for calendar year 2010.

In August of 2011, Master Sergeant Pierce reported to 2D Maintenance Battalion, where he served as a platoon commander and SNCOIC for the Fire Control sec-



Pierce

tion within Ordnance Maintenance Company.

In March of 2013, Master Sergeant Pierce reported to Combat Logistics Battalion 6, where he served as the Maintenance Operations Chief and Logistics Readiness Officer for Combat Logistics Regiment 2 (FWD) during Operation Enduring Freedom 13.2.

In May of 2014, Master

Sergeant Pierce reported to Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office, East, where he served as an Ordnance Maintenance Analyst and Team Chief. On April 1st, 2015, he was promoted to his present rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Pierce reported to 1st Marine Logistics Group in July of 2015, where he served as the G4 Ordnance Chief and G4 Logistics Chief.

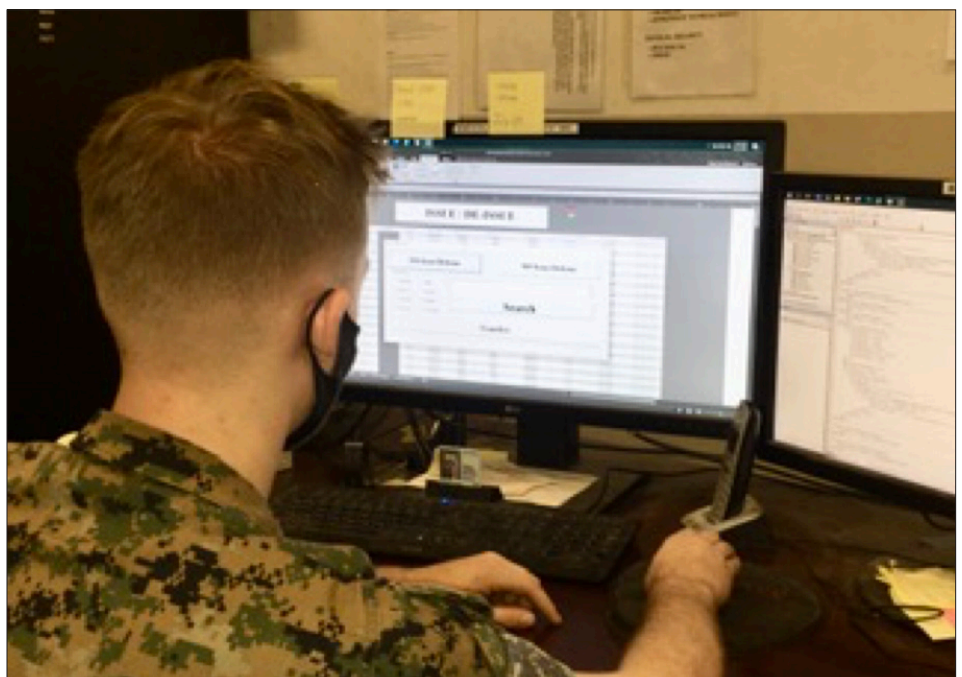
Master Gunnery Sergeant Pierce reported to 2nd Marine Division in April of 2018, where he currently serves as the Division Ordnance Chief.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Pierce's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with four gold stars, Combat Action Ribbon, and Drill Instructor Ribbon, and numerous campaign and unit level decorations. Master Gunnery Sergeant Pierce is married to the former Melissa Miller and they have two children.

Innovation Continued

benefits of this system include a failsafe that prevents a single weapon rack number from being issued to more than one Marine. LCpl Killian continues to improve upon the existing system and is currently creating a new product that shows great promise to be superior and even more user friendly.

These innovations and projects would not be possible without an outstanding staff and Marines. We are certainly blessed with individuals that work together as a team toward the common goal of supporting the mission and keeping Marines safe.



LCpl Killian working on the armory issue database

Comedy Fishing in the Rain

The rain was pouring and there was a big puddle in front of the pub just outside the Navy Base.

A ragged old Marine Gunnery Sgt. was standing near the edge with a fishing rod, his line in the puddle. A curious young Navy fighter pilot came over to him and asked what he was doing. 'Fishing,' the old guy

simply said. 'Poor old fool,' the Navy officer thought and he invited the ragged old Marine into the pub for a drink.

As he felt he should start some conversation while they were sipping their whiskey, the smart-ass fighter pilot asked, "And how many have you caught?" 'You're the eighth,' the old Marine Gunny answered.

Spotlight Continued

Weapons Systems Maintenance Officer. During this time, he was assigned as the Team Leader for crew served weapon systems where he was responsible for the acquisition of and fielding of multiple systems such as the Dial bore gauge for the 60mm and 81mm mortars, the video bore scope and both light weight Inconel mortar systems.

In 2008, Capt Burgess was assigned to 2d Maintenance Battalion, 2d MLG as the Maintenance Operations Officer. Here he was promoted to Major and deployed with the battalion in support of OIF-9.2 as the Current Operations Officer. In 2010, Major Burgess was assigned to the 2d Marine Division Headquarters as the Division Ordnance Officer. In 2011, he was attached to II MEF Headquarters Group as the II MEF(FWD) MMO/Ordnance Officer while they deployed to Afghanistan in support of OEF 11.1-11.2. Upon return Major Burgess was reassigned to Division again as the Division Ordnance Officer.

In 2013, Major Burgess was assigned to Marine Corps Logistics Command, Albany, Georgia as the LOGCOM Maintenance Officer. There he was reassigned as the Director of Current Operations.

In 2016, he was selected for Lieutenant Colonel and reported to Marine Forces Reserve G4 as the MFR Maintenance Officer. Major Burgess was promoted to his current rank of Lieutenant Colonel on March 1, 2016.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgess' awards include: Meritorious Service Medal x2, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal x3, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal x4 w/combat V, the combat action ribbon and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal x2.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgess has been married for over 31 years to wife Tammy Burgess, and is a father of a 29 year old son, Sergeant Mason Burgess (USMC), a 26 year old son, Steven Burgess and 24 year old son, Austin Burgess.

Upon retirement, having been stationed in New Orleans at Marine Forces Reserve, Lieutenant Colonel Burgess had to learn to cook indoors because of the heat. That's where he fell in love with cooking and upon retirement entered culinary school "Culinary Institute of Virginia," where he has a few weeks left to complete. Being the old guy in school and having the discipline from our Marine Corps, enabled him to excel beyond the 20 year olds that make up the majority of the labs and classes.

WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR NEWEST GOMA MEMBERS!



It is always a pleasure to recognize our newest members! Semper Fidelis!

Matthew Pickelsimer (Lifetime)

Jake Mettam (Lifetime)

Aaron Sitka (Lifetime)

Michael Dahlkamp
(Renewal Annual 3-year)

John Deering
(Renewal Annual 2-year)

Jeffrey Glowacky
(Renewal Annual)

Scott Siembab (Renewal Annual)

Joshua Cordova
(Renewal Annual)

Christopher Ramos (Honorary)

Staying In Touch With

Brothers: Retired LtCol Luzbetak and MGySgt Bushnell share a few stories over some cold brews in Yuma, AZ





*"...Disseminating
knowledge of Ground
Ordnance
Maintenance among
Marines, to provide
professional
development
opportunities for
Marines, to foster the
spirit and preserve
the traditions of the
Marine Corps..."*

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Woodbridge, VA 22195

(Contact the Association Treasurer for EFT or other deposit information if needed)

For more information contact by email:
scholarship@usmcgoma.org or to the Association Treasurer Charles Bushnell treasurer@usmcgoma.org

If sending by mail, please write in the memo it is for the Scholarship Program. If you wish to send via PayPal, please use the organizational acct under treasurer@usmcgoma.org but use the send to a friend option instead of good and services.

A special thanks to our Corporate Sponsor Amanda Riley, RF Strategies For her continued commitment to Support.

Please keep an eye out for sponsors and events that can generate funds for next year's scholarships!

Custodis Pro Ferrum

What Does A New Member Get When They Join?

Whether you become a Life or Annual Member, you will receive:

GOMA Coin

GOMA Lapel Pin

Membership Card

Members only access to the USMCGOMA Website

Lifetime Members will also receive a Certificate

JOIN TODAY AT WWW.USMCGOMA.ORG AND SUPPORT YOUR
GROUND ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMMUNITY!

Ordnance Key Billets

HQMC/LPM-2:

LtCol Ryan Cleveland

MGySgt Joe Kennedy

HQMC/ CD&I

Capt Jason Beck-21XX Occupational Field Manager

MARFORPAC:

Maj Michael Bressler/MGySgt

Shawn Young (soon to be MGySgt

Mainor Carpiobran)

MARFORCOM:

Maj Zoltar Mendoza (Soon to be

Capt Nicky Jones)

MARFORRES:

Vacant; LtCol Christian Galbraith/

MGySgt Sean Dawson

MARFORSOC:

Maj Michael McMillan/

MSgt Karin Monaco

I MEF: Maj Douglas Mayorga/

MGySgt Dee Harris

- 1st MarDiv: Maj Nathaniel Crouch /MGySgt Brent Levell

- 1st MLG: MGySgt Jose Balboa (soon to be MGySgt Juan Mora)

II MEF: LtCol Michael Lukkes/

MGySgt Melvin Venable

- 2d MARDIV: Maj Jason Price/ MGySgt John Pierce

- 2d MLG: Maj Gilbert Woods/ MGySgt Clovis Johnson

III MEF: Maj Mark Oldroyd /

MGySgt Juan Mora (soon to be

MGySgt Kyle Hall)

- 3d MARDIV: Maj Aaron Rancloes/MGySgt Chuck Thompson

- 3rd MLG: MGySgt Spencer Thomas

Monthly Meetings

The Board of Directors holds a board meeting (Conference Call) the second Wednesday of each month at 1730 Pacific Coast Time.

We are asking you to join us by calling in to the following numbers:

848-220-3300

Access Code 306434

It is important that we know what you want and desire from the Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association and look forward to hearing your ideas on making this organization grow.

Fair Winds and Following Seas...

We all hope you have enjoyed reading our SIXTH quarterly publication, and bringing in the new year!

If you have pictures or articles of interest you would like to see published, please contact any of the board members. This can include promotions of your Marines, events, or awards!

Mission Statement

The purpose of the USMC Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association is to support the Marine Corps by disseminating knowledge of Ground Ordnance Maintenance among Marines, to provide professional development opportunities for Marines, to foster the spirit and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps to offer special benefits to USMC GOMA members!

USMC GOMA

P.O. Box 7111 Woodbridge, VA 22195



<https://www.usmcgoma.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/USMCGOMA>



United States Marine Corps

Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association

"Custodis pro Ferrum"
Keepers of the Sword

SELF MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Levels: There are various membership levels and options which are open to Marines currently serving, or having formerly honorably served, in the active or reserve components of the United States Marine Corps; who have been awarded a ground ordnance maintenance Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) by competent authority in accordance with Marine Corps directives in effect at the time of their service, and have honorably served as a Ground Ordnance Maintenance Marine.

In addition, there are also Associate Member options that open to all members of any USMC MOS, U.S. Military Service, or family members of an active GOMA member.

Lifetime (\$225.00) or Lifetime Associate (\$225.00) Lifetime membership is a one-time cost with no further dues ever needed. Over the years as costs rise, so will dues. This one time designation is currently being offered as a great value.

1 year (\$30.00); 2 years (\$55.00); 3 years (75.00): These options are for both regular and associate members

Recruitment Incentive: Any active member who recruits two new members in any given year will be given a one year gift membership that can be used either for their own annual membership or to be used as a gift membership to another person of their choice. (*Must meet all membership qualifications*).

☐ I certify that I meet Ordnance membership requirements. or ☐ I certify that I meet Associate membership requirements.

I am/was U.S. ☐ Enlisted ☐ Officer **Choose Membership:** ☐ Life ☐ Annual
Military:

For mail in Annual Renewals please check here: ☐ add membership number: _____ update information below and include check or money order.

Member Information:

Rank/Prefix _____ MOS (If applicable): _____

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Pay Grade: _____

Military Branch: _____

Service Status: _____

Referred By: _____

Make check or money order payable to:

USMC GOMA (Write the membership level on memo line of the check.)

Mail completed membership form and payment to:

USMC GOMA, PO Box 7111, Woodbridge, VA. 22195, U.S.A.